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~~PORT HARRISON, MONTANA~~

HUNTING & FISHING

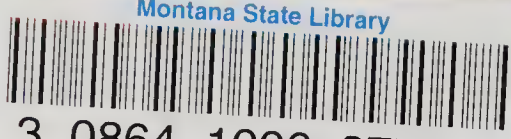
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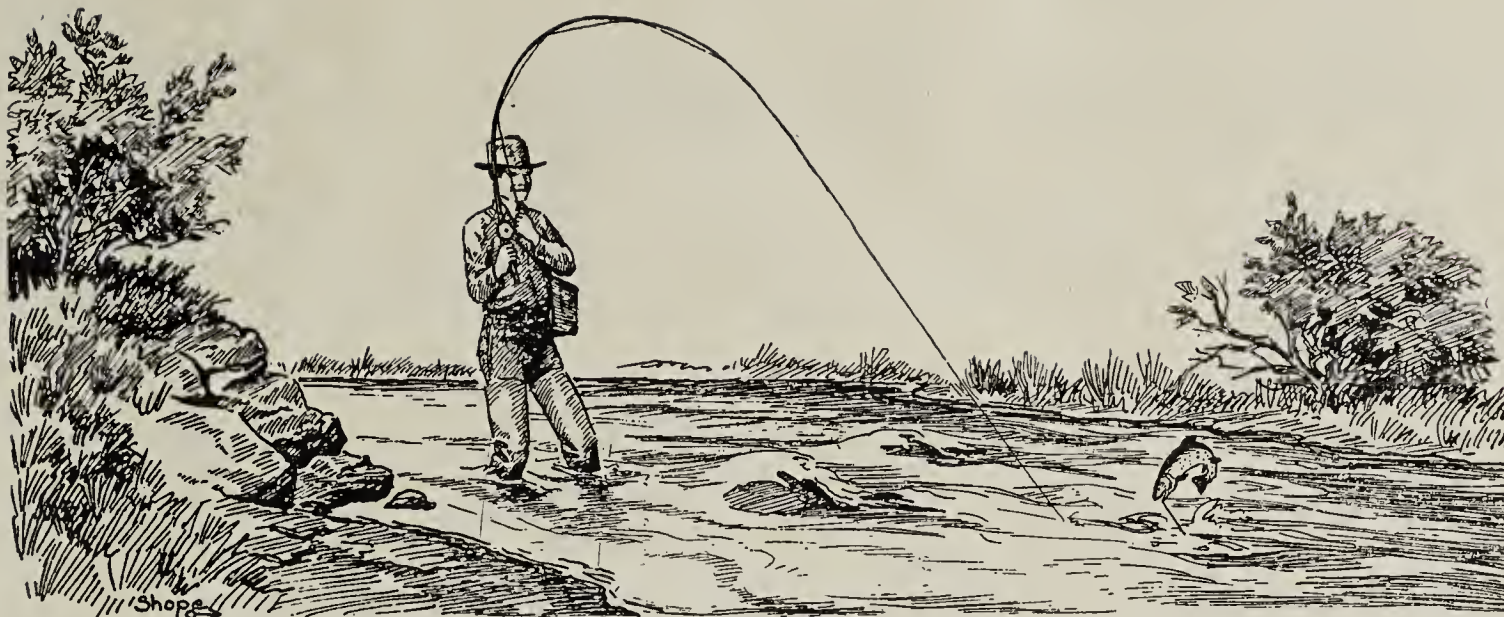
Montana Fish & Game Dept. Guide

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Montana-home of fish and game

Whether you thrill to the whirr of a ruffed grouse breaking from a willow clump, the roar of a grizzly bear brought to bay, or a tussle with a tackle-busting rainbow, Montana has something to offer. With a variety of fish and game that is tops the sportsman can find almost anything that his heart desires. But there is more than the wildlife alone to attract the outdoorsman.

Scenery is unequalled for breathtaking beauty, streams are clear and pure and from the vast prairies of eastern Montana to the rugged peaks of the western section, one can roam with unbelievable freedom.

This state has an area of 147,138 square miles. The far eastern portion is prairie and badlands and here are found the antelope, mule deer, sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse and warm water fishes. This is also an area where fossil deposits are found and where the picturesque badlands form an interesting scenic background for the hunter or fisherman.

In western Montana, rugged snow-capped peaks, rolling hills and broad valleys make up the home of elk, moose, white-tailed and mule deer, mountain goats and sheep, black and grizzly bear, and the many species of trout, and other cold-water fishes.

Now let's consider where you can go to find that special kind of hunting or fishing. But remember there are many factors that will influence your trip. You may or may not be lucky, but getting a limit of fish or game isn't the really important thing. It's getting out that counts — breathing that fresh mountain air and smelling coffee and bacon on the morning breeze — man that's living.

Montana Wildlife

Big Game . . .

Moose, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, antelope, mountain sheep, mountain goat, caribou, grizzly bear, black bear.

Game Birds . . .

Sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, blue grouse, Franklin's grouse, ruffed grouse, ptarmigan, ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian partridge, chukar.

Fish . . .

Grayling, Cutthroat (native), Dolly Varden (bull trout), Loch Leven (brown trout), eastern brook; Mackinaw (lake trout), Kokanee (sock-eye), silver salmon; whitefish; sandpike (sauger) walleyed pike, northern pike, bass, perch, blue gill, crappie, catfish, bullheads.

Furbearing Animals . . .

Fisher, marten, otter, fox, muskrat, mink, beaver.

Predatory Animals . . .

Coyote, wolf, wolverine, mountain lion, bobcat, weasel, skunk.

Types of Licenses and Fees . . .

Resident Bird and Fish License	\$ 3.00
Resident Big Game (Must be holder of class A license)	2.00
Non-Resident Seasonal Fishing License	10.00
Non-Resident 3-Day Limited Fishing	2.50
Non-Resident Bird	25.00
Non-Resident Big Game and Fishing	100.00

The holder of a Resident or Non-Resident Big Game License is entitled to take one deer, one elk, one bear, and one goat, during the open season thereon.

Children under 15 years of age are not required to have a license to fish or hunt game birds. However, all persons hunting big game animals must have a big game license.

Hunting and fishing licenses are available at nearly all towns in the state. These are usually on sale at sporting goods or hardware stores.

All aliens may purchase non-resident licenses.

Please refer to current year's hunting and fishing regulations for the bag limits and seasons.

TO SAVE IS TO HAVE — TO CONSERVE IS TO USE WISELY



Wilderness Areas and National Forests

Thirty-six per cent (or nearly 54,000 square miles) of Montana is public land. There are eleven National forests which comprise over 16,000,000 acres, and in which eight wilderness areas have been established to preserve natural conditions in all of its untarnished beauty. All of Glacier Park and part of Yellowstone Park are in Montana; besides these, there are several state and federal refuges and game management areas.

NATIONAL FORESTS

Name	Supervisors' Headquarters
Kootenai	Libby
Cabinet	Thompson Falls
Flathead	Kalispell
Lolo	Missoula
Bitterroot	Hamilton
Lewis & Clark	Great Falls
Helena	Helena
Deer Lodge	Butte
Beaverhead	Dillon
Gallatin	Bozeman
Custer	Billings

WILDERNESS AREAS

Name	National Forest Location
Anaconda-Pintlar	Beaverhead — Deer Lodge
Absaroka	Gallatin National Forest
Beartooth	Custer National Forest
Bob Marshall	Flathead — Lewis & Clark
Cabinet	Cabinet — Kootenai
Gates of Mountains	Helena
Mission Mountains	Flathead
Spanish Peaks	Gallatin

Hunting Upland Game Birds In Montana

Unquestionably the great majority of Montana hunters think of the game birds first when they think of hunting. And of these, the upland game birds such as the various grouse species, the Hungarian partridge, and the ring-necked pheasant, are the first love of nearly all hunters.

Of all forms of gunning, upland game bird wingshooting is probably the most varied and demanding of skill in the use of the scattergun. Wing-shooting provides a maximum amount of thrills and requires a minimum of equipment and expense. Still the hunt is by no means over when the bag is full, for the ultimate in good eating qualities are to be found among our upland game birds.

The Pheasant

The ring-necked pheasant supplies more hunting than any other Montana upland game bird. The bird was introduced into Montana as early as 1895, but it was not until the late "thirties" that the pheasant came into his own as a result of large scale propagation programs and his ability to adapt himself so abundantly to our habitats.

In general, the pheasant is found in greatest numbers along our stream bottoms and throughout irrigated valleys and benchlands below a 4,500 foot altitude. Here the combination of longer growing seasons, diversified farming, ditch banks, and marshy cattail bottoms provide the essential roosting, hiding and nesting cover as well as an abundant food supply.

Open areas and bag limits are determined by Commission action after weighing all the biological factors involved, such as success of the current year's hatch, and comparative abundance in the different areas in the State.

The pheasant season generally is open on a state-wide basis during late October and early November for a 10-14 day period. There are three areas in the State that have pheasant populations equal to, or better than the best pheasant areas in the United States, acre for acre. These are the lower Flathead Valley between Polson and St. Ignatius, the Sun River Irrigation Project particularly in the vicinity of Fairfield, and the irrigated croplands in the vicinity of Conrad and Valier. Here John Pheasant finds conditions to his liking and the average hunter bags more birds with less effort than in many highly publicized areas throughout the country. Excellent hunting is found along the lower Yellowstone Valley, the Milk and Musselshell Rivers, and in numerous other irrigated valleys in both eastern and western Montana.

Although many a rooster is bagged without a dog, it is a good idea to use one. The pheasant is unsurpassed in the art of hiding when crippled and it takes a lot of shot, well-placed to put him down for good.

The Hungarian Partridge

The Hun is a European native first introduced into Montana thirty years ago. Between 1921 and 1929, the Montana Fish and Game Department purchased 6,600 huns mostly from European countries. The first open season was in 1929, but because the bird fluctuates violently in numbers there have been several periods when there were too few anywhere in the state to justify an open season.

The hun has taken hold best in the plains type habitat where there is much open country devoted to wheat farming interspersed with grasslands. They tend to flock together in family groups, or coveys, which lie fairly well to a dog, but these birds are wary, scatter widely when flushed, and often fly far. Like the ring-necked pheasant, these fellows are masters in the art of skulking and running.

Certainly this swift, canny bird, a table delicacy as well as a real sporting proposition before the gun should not be overlooked during open seasons.

Huns were suddenly very scarce over all their Montana range in 1946, but since that time have been increasing. Open seasons will be based upon current abundance and may vary each year. Best hunting in normal years is found in the vast dry-land wheat farming areas such as the Judith Basin, the areas surrounding Great Falls, and the Highline area composed of counties in the Milk River drainage.

Another bird in the partridge group which may have future potentialities for Montana hunters is the chukar. This fine game bird, a native of Asia, is about the same size as the familiar hun. Color of the bird is blue-gray above; throat white outlined with black; belly white; flanks beautifully marked with black and chestnut; legs, feet, and bill, red.

Previous introductions of this bird in Montana have been unsuccessful due probably to brood stock which originated in areas having greatly different climate than ours. However, some western states—notably Oregon, Arizona, and Wyoming—have excellent success with this bird. At present Montana's Fish and Game Department is raising brood stock derived from these successful strains and it is possible that within a very few years we may have areas opened to hunting this bird.

The chukar is a covey bird, lies fairly well to a dog, but is also like the pheasant, a master runner and skulker.

Preferred chukar habitat is open, precipitious slopes with much slide rock and cheat-grass. Definite figures are not available on the ability of the chukar to survive heavy snows and severe cold, but they do not

suffer very harmful effects, apparently, since some have been sighted in high, cold country.

The Grouse

Today the mainstays of Montana grouse hunting are the sharptail in the eastern plains half of the state, and the ruffed grouse in the mountainous western portion. The sage grouse, the largest representative of this group—with cocks averaging five and one-half pounds in weight—was formerly abundant in 15 states. At present it is found in only eight states and is hunted occasionally in only four; namely, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Colorado. This bird, in common with other grouse species, goes through periods of abundance and scarcity. When the top of the cycle is reached, short hunting seasons are allowed in many of Montana's southeastern counties. This fine big grouse occurs on sage brush plains and rolling hills of the higher arid prairie. Much of the ground it inhabits is useless for anything but grazing and is probably all that has saved it for us.

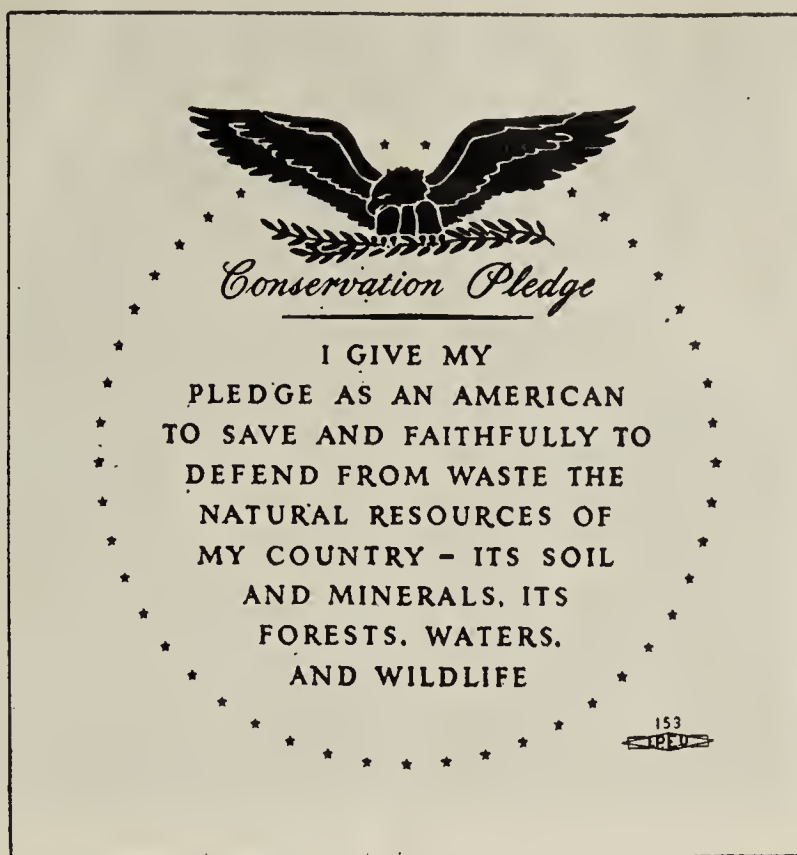
The shap-tailed grouse is the common species of our eastern prairies and grasslands. They are plump birds, weighing up to 2½ pounds. They get away quickly, and during flight always give themselves away by cackling. Like the sage grouse, they have their population ups-and-downs, but since they occupy a much larger range, they can and do stand much more hunting.

There are three species of mountain grouse hunted in Montana; besides the familiar ruffed grouse, there are the blue grouse, and the Franklin's grouse, or fool-hen.

The ruffed grouse is a bird of the tangled alder and willow thickets along most small stream courses in the western third of Montana. Where it has learned the lesson of wariness from contact with civilization, it offers probably the best sport of any of our game birds. The flush is always noisy and, if possible, the bird will put some obstacle between himself and the hunter.

Blue grouse are birds of the high-timbered mountains. They usually follow the food supply down the mountains into the low valleys by late summer, but are most at home in the high alpine parks and meadows, and in the dark fir forests where they spend a great deal of time in the trees.

Franklin's grouse is associated with spruce and lodgepole forests and is usually found near water. Only in portions of our northwestern counties and in some of the primitive areas can it be considered at all common. Its gullible nature has given it the name of "fool-hen" since it is rapidly vanishing from all but the most lonely localities.



Join Hands With Those Who Pledge To Conserve

Don't be a
"Game Hog"

Hunting seasons for both prairie and mountain grouse are opened concurrently and usually run from one to five days depending on local abundance. Seasons are usually held in late September.

Best sharptail hunting is found in the dry-land cornfields in southeastern Montana; the breaks along the Missouri, and the rolling foothills in Judith Basin County are also considered excellent hunting.

Best mountain grouse hunting is found in the back country from Granite County northward through Lincoln County. Most hunters avail themselves of Forest Service roads to the higher ridges and then work out likely stream bottoms and ridges.



FISHING IS GOOD

Where to Catch 'Em

Montana's vast and beautiful outdoors provide an abundance of fishing for both the resident and non-resident. In the following paragraphs we will endeavor to summarize very briefly our major watersheds with a brief description of the species of fish which are likely to be found therein.

Montana has over fifteen hundred lakes and well over fifteen thousand miles of fishable streams. In this stream mileage are included thirty-one major rivers. These figures do not take into account the many hundreds of small reservoirs which have been constructed in recent years by governmental agencies and private individuals, and which for the most part have been stocked with warm water species of fish and afford much pleasure and recreation to the persons residing in those localities.

Montana is traversed by four major watersheds; the Yellowstone, Missouri, Kootenai and Clark Fork of the Columbia. These major streams with their many tributaries and hundreds of connected lakes offer to the angling enthusiast a diversity of fishing that can be found in few other places in the United States.

Yellowstone River

The Yellowstone River watershed, our most southern and easterly drainage and also one of the largest, offers such a variety of fishing that it would take many pages to describe all of its waters in detail. The Yellowstone River, heading as it does in Yellowstone Park, flows down into Mon-

tana following a northeasterly course, until it crosses the boundary into North Dakota in Richland County, where it joins the Missouri a few miles after crossing the Montana-Dakota State Line. In many of its headwater streams, especially those originating in Yellowstone Park and the Bear-tooth Mountains, can be found splendid cutthroat trout fishing.

As the Yellowstone flows down into Park, Sweetgrass and Stillwater Counties, it will be found that the rainbow, Loch Leven and cutthroat reigns supreme and a number of prize specimens of these species have been taken from this stretch of the river. It might also be mentioned here that those who prefer the art of white-fishing will have no trouble in indulging in this sport to his heart's content, as long as he remains in any of the waters within the before mentioned three counties.

By the time the Yellowstone River has reached Yellowstone County, it is biologically a much different stream than it was when it left Yellowstone Park. During the summer months prevailing temperatures of the lower river are higher, and this area provides good warm water fishing. Chief among these are the walleye pike, channel catfish, fresh water drum and ling. Those individuals who have perfected the technique of angling for these fish stoutly defend their sport even when engaged in a controversy with a confirmed trout fisherman.

The Yellowstone is one of the three rivers within the state declared open to fishing the year round by legislative action, with the Commission having the power to establish creel limits and methods of angling.

Many pages could be written on the tributaries of the Yellowstone, especially the Clark Fork, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Shields River, Boulder, Hellroaring Creek, Sough Creek and dozens of others. Cutthroat can be found in the headwaters and rainbow and Loch Leven in the lower stretches.

Missouri River

Our next watershed which embraces a large part of the State of Montana lying east of the continental divide, but not drained by the Yellowstone, is the Missouri River drainage system. In this watershed can undoubtedly be found the greatest diversity of fishing that exists anywhere in the United States. In its headwaters can be found grayling, cutthroat, rainbow, eastern brook, and Loch Leven, while the lower stretches offer every advantage for warm water fishing, ranging from the sturgeon, walleye pike and northern pike to sunfish, bream, crappies, catfish and yellow perch.

It might be well to start at the Montana-Dakota Line on this great drainage system and work up stream to develop a picture of the transition from warm water to trout fishing.

There is fine walleye pike fishing in the Main Missouri from the Dakota line to the Fort Peck Dam especially during the spring migration. Fresh water drum, channel catfish, ling and various rough species, such as carp, suckers, golden-eye and many others are commonly caught in this section of the river. Immediately below the Fort Peck Dam there is good rainbow trout, sockeye salmon and walleye pike fishing.

Milk River

The Milk River, which has its confluence with the Missouri a few miles below the Fort Peck Dam, is declared open to fishing by Commission action throughout the entire year and set line fishing for non-game fish is permitted from Fresno Dam to its confluence with the Missouri. The creation of Fresno Dam added another fishing area to the northern part of Montana. It is not uncommon to catch rainbow trout weighing five to seven pounds, however, the crappie and walleye pike are the principal inhabitants. The headwaters of the Milk River originating in Glacier County and the Dominion of Canada affords some mighty fine cutthroat fishing.

Fort Peck Lake

Fort Peck Lake, being such a large body of water in a sparsely populated area, has hardly been touched as far as fishing is concerned. The available fishing facilities are limited to the Fort Peck Dam area, to the areas below and above the Dam, to the Rock Creek area which is approached from Glendive, Montana, and to the Hell Creek area on the south side of the Lake which is approached through Miles City and Jordan. Incidentally, this latter area is approached through the Badlands and the Missouri breaks, famous in the history of the West. Many fossils have been found along this very scenic approach to this body of water. Another approach can be made from Lewistown in the Mosby area, coming in somewhere near the mouth of the Musselshell River, and still another is near the mouth of the Missouri near Wilden. The Pines area, south of the town of Fort Peck and on the north shore of the Lake, is a favorite spot for many fishermen entering from highway No. 2 on the north side of Fort Peck Lake. Information regarding the facilities available on Fort Peck Lake may be secured from the U. S. Army Engineers at Fort Peck, Montana. Most of the developments on the Lake were made by the Army Engineers for public recreational use.

The waters of Fort Peck Reservoir, which embrace an acreage equal to all of the lakes in the State combined, offer wonderful possibilities for diversified angling. Large numbers of perch and walleye pike are being caught along with a few rainbow, and an occasional Loch Leven trout and sockeye salmon. Loch Leven, rainbow, sockeye salmon and mackinaw trout have been planted for the past several years by the State.

Musselshell River

As we progress up stream we come to the junction of the Musselshell which drains a vast territory in Meagher, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell and Petroleum Counties. The headwaters of this stream are stocked with eastern brook, Loch Leven and rainbow, as are several of the large reservoirs such as Martinsdale, Deadman's Basin, Harris and Sutherland. These have produced good results as regards size and numbers of rainbow being caught therefrom.

Judith River

The Judith River which converges with the Missouri quite some distance upstream from the Musselshell is also worthy of special mention as many of its tributaries are quite famous for the large specimens of Loch Leven, eastern brook, and rainbow trout which enthusiastic anglers have caught. One of the Judith's tributaries, Spring Creek near Lewistown, is a good fishing stream and has remained so even though it flows through the city of Lewistown.

Marias River

The Marias River was named by Lewis and Clark who thought it might be the main stem of the Missouri. The headwaters of this stream on the eastern slope of the Rockies afford good trout fishing. One of the creeks which flows into the Marias heads on Three Waters Peak in Glacier Park, from which water flows into the Atlantic (through the Marias), the Pacific and Hudson Bay. This instance shows how Montana's Rockies stand at the peak of the continent.

Sun River

One of the outstanding streams flowing into the Missouri near Great Falls, is the Sun River and to any fisherman who has ever visited this region, further explanation would be most unnecessary. However, to those of you who, as yet, have not had the opportunity of fishing the waters of Sun River, which rises in the Lewis and Clark National Forest and drains a most rugged terrain, we point out that you have missed some of the greatest fishing for eastern brook, rainbow and grayling to be had in the State.

Main Missouri River

From Great Falls on up stream, the main Missouri River becomes a trout stream worthy of special mention, and from its waters are made many a fine catch of rainbow, Loch Leven and whitefish.

Further on up stream close to Three Forks is where fishing history is really made; for it is at this point that three major watersheds, the Jefferson, the Madison and the Gallatin, converge to form the Missouri River.

Gallatin River

The Gallatin River with its tributaries draining Gallatin, Park and Madison Counties and also a portion of Yellowstone National Park,, offers a diversity of fishing for eastern brook, rainbow, Loch Leven and cutthroat.

Madison River

The Madison River rising in Yellowstone Park and draining much of Madison and Gallatin Counties holds the enviable reputation of being the most outstanding trout stream in the United States, if not in the world. The headwaters of the Madison arise in Yellowstone Park and carry a wealth of minerals from the Hot Springs area. Rainbow and Loch Leven are supreme and the River is a paradise for fly fishermen. Hebgen and Meadow Lakes, artificial impoundments of the main Madison River, are famous the world around for the sport they offer the fisherman who trolls and even to the ardent fly fisherman.

Jefferson River

The Jefferson River, which is the third of the Three Forks of the Missouri, is formed by the junction of the Big Hole and Beaverhead Rivers. The lower regions of the Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers are well supplied with Loch Leven and rainbow trout. This is a popular drainage for fishermen of the southwestern section of the State of Montana and the outside fishermen coming from neighboring states west of the Divide. In the upper regions of this Jefferson drainage is found splendid eastern brook trout fishing. Cutthroat trout are still abundant in some areas. It is in this area that the famed Montana Grayling is still available to the curious angler in considerable numbers.

Clark Fork of The Columbia River

So far we have covered only those waters of the eastern slope of the Rockies. Let's cross the Divide and drop down into the headwaters of the Clark Fork of the Columbia River which has its origin in Silver Bow, Powell and Granite Counties. Practically all of its tributaries in these countries afford very good brook trout and cutthroat fishing, while rainbow may be found further down stream. Loch Leven are also to be found on the western slope. The Little Blackfoot River flowing through Powell County is an outstanding example of a fine Loch Leven stream.

Rock Creek, which is almost entirely within Granite County and which flows into the Clark Fork a few miles below Bonita is one of the finest trout streams on the western slope. Its ability to stand up under the heavy fishing pressure to which it has been subjected in years past has been nothing short of miraculous. Much of this stream meanders through high mountain meadows which are instrumental in introducing a large

amount of fertility into its waters, and this is undoubtedly one of the main contributory factors in its being able to support a large trout population. It is exclusively a rainbow and cutthroat stream, rainbow, of course, being found in the lower stretches with cutthroat in the headwaters.

Not far from the town of Paradise, the Clark Fork River is joined by the Flathead River from which point it flows on through Thompson Falls, Noxon and Herron Rapids to the Idaho State Line. It is at Herron Rapids that a great deal of fishing has been carried on in years past during the fall migratory run of sockeye salmon from Pondera Lake in Idaho. At this point the River is forced through a narrow rocky gorge, and in the fall of the year fishermen line up on both sides of the River, equipped with large bamboo poles and heavily weighted hooks.

Big Blackfoot River

As the Clark Fork passes through the town of Bonner, it is joined by the Big Blackfoot River which drains much of Powell, Lewis and Clark, and Missoula counties with its headwaters in the famous Clearwater Lakes region. The Big Blackfoot, like many of the streams on the western slope, is not drained by a large number of irrigation diversions and is one of the outstanding trout streams in that region. This stream, like Rock Creek, produces principally rainbow and cutthroat trout. Sockeye salmon have been introduced into several of the Clearwater Lakes and these introductions further supplement the fishing enjoyment of this region.

Bitterroot River

A few miles below the city of Missoula, the Bitterroot River contributes its water to the Clark Fork and here again many pages could be written on the possibilities of fishing in the area drained by this stream. Practically all of Ravalli County lies in the Bitterroot drainage and at its headwaters may be found many beautiful sub-alpine lakes which provide predominately cutthroat and trout fishing. Rainbow, brook and Loch Leven are the principal trout inhabitants of the Bitterroot River. During the winter months, whitefishing is a very popular sport.

Georgetown Lake

Of all the headwaters of the Clarks Fork Drainage, Georgetown Lake, created many years ago by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company may be considered the best lake fishing that is accessible by motor traffic.

The Fish and Game Department, in managing this lake as a source of eggs for their spawning operations has, through the years, maintained by stocking and regulation a good supply of native blackspotted trout, rainbow trout, eastern brook trout, silver salmon, and the Montana grayling. Many large catches and limits of fish are taken annually by both trolling and fly fishing. The lake itself is in a very beautiful setting of mountains and timber land and is an ideal location for fishing and outing.

Flathead Lake

Large rainbow trout fishing may be expected in the lower Flathead River from its confluence with the Clark Fork to the falls below Flathead Lake. However, it is from Flathead Lake upward including all of the tributaries and connected lakes of this vast drainage system where the utmost in fishing, recreation, and pleasure may be expected. Flathead Lake, at the present time, is open to fishing the year around for all species of fish in open waters and through the ice. Cutthroat, rainbow, Dolly Varden, and sockeye salmon are the most sought after game fish found in this lake. However, bass fishing enthusiasts may find a number of protected bays and side sloughs where he may indulge in this sport to his heart's content and where specimens ranging up to five and six pounds are not at all uncommon. Perch fishing is popular to a considerable extent during the late summer months and through the winter. While the average specimens are not as large as those caught in the warmer waters in the eastern part of the State, the meat is of very high quality. The whitefish fisherman is also in his seventh heaven, for within the waters of Flathead Lake are found the Rocky Mountain and Lake Superior whitefish with many of these specimens averaging two to three pounds.

One of the highlights of the Flathead fishing comes during the fall of the year when the many thousands of sockeye salmon having completed their four-year cycle of growth, reach maturity and converge on the many gravel rimmed shores of the Lake to deposit their eggs. It is at these points many hundreds of fishermen congregate yearly, and each year at least several hundred tons of choice sockeye salmon find their way into the fisherman's creel.

Flathead River

Flathead River above Flathead Lake is divided into three main tributaries, the North Fork, the Middle Fork and the South Fork. The fishing in all of these is indeed worthy of special mention and consists principally of cutthroat and Dolly Varden. In this river system are many remote and primitive areas including the famous Bob Marshall wilderness area, accessible only by trail, and to those who wish to sacrifice the comfort and ease of riding on the main highways by hitting the back trails on foot or horseback will come the rich reward of hard fighting trout. Over half of the Glacier Park area is drained by tributaries of the Flathead.

Kootenai River

The Kootenai River, situated in the very northwest corner of Montana entirely within Lincoln County, arises in Canada, flows into Montana, thence through Idaho, back into Canada, through the Kootenai Lakes, and thence into the Columbia River. This region possesses a number of out-

standing streams, such as the Fisher River, Tobacco River, Yaak River, and many smaller tributaries in addition to a large number of mountain lakes, all of which are stocked with trout of either cutthroat, eastern brook, or rainbow variety. The main Kootenai River while not considered in former years as the best fishing, has of late years improved and offers very good rainbow and Dolly Varden angling. Sturgeon ascend the Kootenai River as far as Kootenai Falls between Libby and Troy.

Lake Fishing In Eastern Montana

In the development of the West everyone considers the raising of cattle as a primary industry. Coupled with the livestock industry in later years was a program geared to increased production and with it came the necessity for water. Through different governmental and state agencies, stock water reservoirs and lakes ranging in size from five to five hundred acres were created as catching basins for snow and rain water runoff. On the prairies of eastern Montana, through both the Missouri and the Yellowstone drainages, are many of these reservoirs. Through cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Montana Fish and Game Department, these isolated waters of the prairie lands were stocked with bass, blue gills, crappie, walleyed pike and northern pike. Each year about 200 ponds are stocked in the eastern plains area. These ponds



are not old lakes or spent streams, but they are new, live waters, fishing lakes. Anyone wishing to roam over the historic prairie lands where the buffalo and antelope formerly were the only inhabitants, will come upon small lakes with warm water fishing comparable with any they have experienced.

Conclusion

To assure Montana sportsmen that the vast area of the State of Montana shall remain properly stocked, the Department at this time maintains and operates twelve major trout hatcheries and the Fish and Wildlife Service operates three. All of these units are dedicated solely to the rearing and distribution of trout. The Montana Fish and Game Department operates a pike hatchery at Nelson Reservoir near Malta, Montana, and a rearing pond at Bowdoin Refuge. The pike are principally used in the stocking of impoundments in eastern Montana. In addition to the trout hatcheries, the Fish and Wildlife Service maintains and operates a warm water fish hatchery at Miles City, Montana.

The combined output of these hatcheries and rearing ponds is well over twenty-five million fish each season, many of these being six to eight inches long at the time of liberation.

With our ever increasing economic development, inadvertently we encroach on the habitat of both fish and wildlife. We should never lose sight of the fact that destroying fish habitat automatically eliminates the fish. The streams and lakes with their finny inhabitants are nature's wonderland and are certainly a part of our economic picture today. These natural assets cannot be created, but must be conserved. In our economic development, fishing should be considered, so that we do not destroy these natural fish habitats. They cannot be replaced.

With the increased fishing pressures that are bound to occur in this vast expanse of lake and rivers, it is hoped that everyone will endeavor to conserve this wildlife resource.

STAY WITHIN THE LAW

CONSULT MONTANA FISH AND GAME LAWS

AND YOUR BIG GAME MAPS

BIG GAME HUNTING



When the leaves start turning into the brilliant reds and golds of Montana's "Indian Summer," and the air has that fresh autumn feeling, then the big game hunters come to life. Dreams of again seeking that big buck begin to materialize, rifles are carefully polished and other gear is readied. The big hunt is about to start.

In a state as large as Montana, there's a lot of room to hunt so the anxious nimrod must decide where and when. However, there are several factors which will affect a hunting trip so let's consider these. First is the weather.

Weather

In mountainous country weather is an unpredictable commodity, but usually October in Montana is a vast panorama of reds and yellows, with the brisk delightful weather known as Indian summer. After November 1st, cold and snow should be anticipated. In fact those extra "woolies" won't feel at all bad. The following summary is anyone's guess, but it is a fair yardstick of average weather.

September 1-15—Warm to hot—rain occasional.

September 15-30—Warm with an occasional early snow storm.

October 1-31—Brisk to cool—mountain snowstorms probable.

November 1-30—Cool to cold—permanent snows arrive about mid-November.

December 1—"B-r-r-r-r."

Equipment and Clothes

If properly equipped, the weather is not a problem and long underwear with wool shirts and pants are usually necessary. A wind breaker jacket or parka will put you in shape for any "unusual" weather. You are required by law to wear an outer garment of red, so be sure to have a red hat or shirt.

Most important is footgear, pacs or rubber boots are best and watch the bottoms for tread. Mountain sides are very slippery and you should

have a cleated shoe. Good wool socks and gloves or mittens are necessary.

The routine equipment such as knife, match case, rope, hatchet, etc., are needed and the important thing is a gun.

Without trying to start an argument with the small caliber enthusiasts, we suggest a big gun as proper equipment for elk. About 40 per cent of the big game hunters in this state favor 30.06. A 270, .300 magnum or others of comparable killing power are satisfactory.

Where to Go

Now you're about ready for the expedition and the question of where to go becomes important. That is a little difficult as even some of us so-called natives have to tramp many weary miles before that big buck comes into our sights. So we will list by species, areas where hunters usually have good luck. If you aren't successful, our complaint department is plumb willing to send "sobbing cloths" and "sympathy cards." Our analysis of hunting conditions is conservative, but we didn't want to wax over-enthusiastic and have a few disappointed hunters.

ELK (Wapiti)

This large member of the deer family is much in demand and may be hunted in several areas. A careful study of the Montana big game hunting map will reveal a number of places where it is legal to hunt elk. Most of these are fair but the following list is recommended because the chances of success are better and licensed outfitters are available.

Areas are listed from west to east and in each case the nearest town or village is named. It is suggested that you contact the local Chamber of Commerce for suggestions as to outfitters, packers and guides.

Mineral County—Partially accessible by road but pack horses required for best hunting. Packers and guides are available. There is scenic country in this area and hunting is fair. Nearby towns—Alberton and Superior.

Ravalli County—Accessible by road but chances are much better if you have horses. Packers and guides are scarce. Scenery is excellent, particularly on the west side of the Bitterroot River. Hunting is fair. Nearby towns—Hamilton, Stevensville, Darby.

Blackfoot-Clearwater Drainages—Accessible by road. Some hunting done without horses but best trips require horses. Outfitters are available. Hunting is fair. Nearby towns—Missoula, Ovando.

South and Middle Fork of Flathead River—This is primitive country, far from civilization and plumb beautiful. It lies on the west slope of the Continental Divide. You'll have to sit on a horse most of the time, but it's hard to beat if you want to get way back, and you'll have to hunt, but that's what you want, isn't it? Hunting is fair to good. Nearby towns

—Missoula, Kalispell, Ovando.

Sun River—Across the Continental Divide from the Flathead Drainage and draining eastward, the Sun River flows into the Missouri. This is also primitive country and will remain so unless some current proposals to construct a dam in the middle of this beautiful hunk of wilderness materialize. Hunting is fair to good. Nearby town—Augusta.

Gallatin—An oiled highway runs right up to the center of this drainage and dude ranches are abundant. Scenery is excellent and hunting is fair to good. Horses are almost a necessity and are quite available. Nearest town—Bozeman.

Madison—Fair elk hunting is found in this area if you know where to go.

The Gallatin-Madison divide can be reached via horseback and there are quite a few elk. Nearby town—Ennis.

Yellowstone—Elk from Yellowstone Park supply late fall and winter hunting in this area which lies north of the park boundary. A considerable number of elk are bagged here each year, but it's not a "hunters' hunt." Hunting is done near the road and very little travel is necessary. The crowds get kinda thick too, but if you're after meat and the weather is right, your chances are good. Nearby town—Gardiner.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

This wily rascal is found primarily in northwestern Montana. It is very generally distributed in Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Mineral, Missoula, and Powell Counties.

If you're a bona fide white-tailed deer stalker it shouldn't be very tough, to connect with a big buck.

Some of very best hunting is on the Fisher River in Lincoln County, Thompson River in Sanders County, Fish Creek in Mineral County and the Blackfoot or Clearwater drainages in Missoula and Powell Counties.

MULE DEER

Mule deer are found over the entire state and it would be difficult to name a place from the badlands of the Missouri near Fort Peck to the Idaho state line where the muley couldn't be found.

Some very good areas are Beaverhead County (Ruby River) Judith Basin (Judith River), Wheatland County (Crazy Mountains) and most of western Montana.

MOUNTAIN GOATS

Mountain goats may be hunted in only one area of the state. This is an area along the Continental Divide and is at the headwaters of the Middle and South Fork of the Flathead River. Country is wild and beautiful and a long tough hike may be in store for you. But if you've got good lungs and strong legs there's likely to be a long-whiskered billy on a pinnacle waiting for you.

GRIZZLY BEAR

Old **Ursus horribilis** as the scientific gents call him can be bagged where he is found if the area is open to deer and elk hunting and unless a game preserve is present.

Not many grizzlies are killed because of their wary nature but those big ham-shaped tracks can be found over much of the state's wilderness area.

Dogs are not permitted and cubs or females with cubs are illegal.

The North Fork, South Fork and Middle Fork of the Flathead River are the best chance for a grizzly. The Absaroka wilderness north of Yellowstone Park is also a fairly good bet.

BLACK BEAR

Black bear may be hunted in the spring and fall according to the current year's regulations. This species is quite common and a number of them are bagged each year. Some are dandies.

ANTELOPE

Pronghorned antelope is a species that is successfully taken by 90 per cent of the people holding permits. There are lots of them scattered over the prairie ranges of eastern Montana.

Permits to hunt antelope may be obtained for \$5.00 by all holders of a big game license. In case the applications exceed the kill quota, some method such as drawing will be employed to determine the hunters. Money is refunded if a permit is not issued.

MOOSE

Approximately 100 moose are harvested by permit each year. These may be taken only in selected areas where a surplus of animals occur.

Permits are \$25.00 to holders of a big game license.

Mountain Sheep, Caribou and Buffalo

These three species are found wild in this state, but the populations are so small that hunting is not permitted at this time.

Good Luck, Hunter!!

We've done all we can, including rub our pet rabbit foot on this paper, to get you started on a Montana big game hunt.

If your gun is sighted in, if one of those four-legged critters crosses your path and if you don't get buck fever, there'll be liver and onions sizzling in the pan.

Please be careful, and don't shoot until you're sure!!!

Watch your matches, cigarettes and camp fire—the game depends on the food and cover of that forest you are hunting in!!!

If you get confused, take it easy. People don't stay lost long, and even in Montana the streams run downhill. If you walk far enough you

should arrive at Portland or New Orleans via the Columbia or Missouri-Mississippi.

Dress and handle your game carefully—wild meat is excellent if properly treated.

But most of all, relax, enjoy the mental, physical and spiritual well-being that comes from a day in the woods.

Trail's End

There you have it, buddy. All we can put on paper to make that trip a success. My good friends Walt Allen (fishing), Bill Bergeson (upland game) and Ken Thompson (big game) have put down their best suggestions.

We hesitate to make specific recommendations as to guides, packers and outfitters for fear of being accused of playing favorites.

Maybe we'll get a chance to swap yarns over the burning embers of a camp fire this year or next. Anyway make Montana your home while you are here — it's big and primitive — we like it that way.

Your friend,

"Monty"

OCT 25 1951

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